

Community Leaders' Movement for Proper Waste Management System in Balurmath Slum of Hazaribag, Dhaka

USAID & FCDO - supported Dhaka CALLING Project motivated Shamsunnahar Shikha to work for her community people



Photograph 1-Shamshunahar Shikha at her Community



Photograph 2- Shamsunnahar Shikha is submitting letter to the PS of Ward Councilor 55, DSCC with four demands for ensuring proper waste management



Photograph 3- Shamshunnahar Shikha is talking about waste management related issue in Monthly CBO Meeting

She passed most of her life through dire sufferings. There was poverty which has not improved yet. The death of her husband, illness, and challenges from society were some of her problems. This was never easy for her as a female and also as a slum inhabitant. That person is Shamsunnahar Shikha, a community leader. Now she talks about the difficulties of others. Saving the environment and proper management of waste are now her prime concerns while she talks to local authorities or participants in different programs. Shamsunnahar Shikha is elected president of CBO committee, Balurmath under DSK Dhaka Calling project.

She has been living in the house of Jibon Mia for a long time. In 2010, very few people used to live in Balurmath area. That's the time when she left Lalbag area of Old Dhaka and started living in Balurmath by opening a tea house. At the age of 12, her family married her off. Her husband died in a road accident leaving her and her three little children behind. Due to the economic condition of her parents, she got married again. She started living in Balurmath Slum with her husband as the living cost in old Dhaka was much higher. Again she gave birth two more children and the situation worsened. She had to start a tea house in Balurmath slum as her husband was unemployed. After a few days, her second husband left her to marry another woman. She works as a manager in Jibon Mia's house and so she is exempt from house rent.

Shamsunnahar Shikha is raising her voice for the slum-dwellers rights regarding waste management following her joining with the Dhaka CALLING project. Around forty families live in the same housing –block with her. They used to gather waste on their own and dropped kitchen wastes on nearby roads and drains. Also, they used to scatter dirt in front of their rooms and also in the drain. Shamsunnahar bought two drums on her own. She placed one of them in front of the bathroom and the other in front of the kitchen so that the house remains clean. She advised her neighbors to do the same. As a leader she has been raising her voice for ensuring proper waste management in her community. With other community people and leaders, she has submitted letter to Ward Councilor with some demands for solving waste management related problems. Ward Councilor responded to some of those recommendations and said to work on those issues.

Shikha Apa is now someone who is at everyone's beck and call. She said, "I feel the inner happiness of mine, doing something for people is the real happiness in the world. I really wants to thanks Dhaka CALLING Project to support me to do so."